

# 2017-2018

## Band Handbook

Mr. Luke Abrahamson – Band: [abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com](mailto:abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com)

### Course Description

Band is open to any student who desires to learn a wind, brass or percussion instrument and read musical notation. Band is offered during the school day during a 30-minute block so that students will not miss regular classroom instruction, PE, or technology class.

In class, the students will receive instruction in proper technique, posture, note and rhythm reading, tone, intonation, dynamics, and ensemble playing in a group performance setting. Band is also a class designed to help build self-esteem, cooperation, self-motivation, and life skills through the study of your chosen instrument. Band, like any other subject in school needs reinforcement. Students are expected to take instruments home and practice techniques learned in class. As a reminder, Band is a year-long commitment.

### Course Materials

Method Books - *These books may be purchased at most local music stores, or ordered through online retailers. Please be sure to purchase the correct book for your child's instrument.*

5<sup>th</sup> Grade/Beginning:

- Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 (blue book) - \$9.00
- Band binder with additional course materials – provided by the school.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade/Advanced:

- Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 (blue book) *this is the same book that we used last year, so there is no need to purchase a new one if you are returning.*
- Sound Innovations Ensemble Development for Young Concert Bands (gold book) - \$6.00
- Band binder with additional course materials – provided by the school.

## Instrument Supplies

All instruments require supplies in order to be maintained and performed correctly. Most of the supplies listed below can be purchased as part of your instrument's "cleaning kit" at any music store. Please bring this list with you to the store so that you can be sure that you are purchasing the correct items.

Flute - Flexible cleaning brush, tuning/cleaning rod, cleaning cloth.

Clarinet and Saxophone- Swab, cork grease, mouthpiece brush, reed guard, 5 reeds (Beginning students use #1 ½ reeds, returning students use #2 ½ reeds)

Trumpet, French Horn and Baritone - Valve oil (*rotor oil for french horn*), slide grease, flexible cleaning snake brush, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.

Trombone - Slide oil, slide grease, flexible cleaning snake brush, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.

Percussion – one pair of hard rubber or soft plastic tipped mallets, one pair of 5A drum sticks.

## Course Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge/skills in independent playing and knowledge of how to play as a group.
- Be able to perform music individually and as a member of a group according to varying levels.
- Experience the feeling of success through individual and group efforts.
- Gain a higher appreciation for different styles of music.

## Concert Attire

**Males:** Boys should plan to wear nice dress pants, a button up shirt and nice dress shoes if available. Ties are a nice addition, but are not required. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not distracting.

**Females:** Girls should wear either a knee length skirt or dress, or pants with a blouse. Any color scheme is acceptable as long as it is not a distraction. Please follow all other school dress code requirements.

**All performers:** Jewelry and fragrances (perfume/cologne) may NOT be worn during performances. The only exception for jewelry is for earrings that do not hang past the ear lobe. Hair must be out of the face for males and for females. (Females please pull your hair back and put it up into a ponytail if applicable.) We are to treat our performances as a formal event.

## **Grading Policies**

Grading in band is divided into two categories: Content and Skills, and Behavior and Participation. will be assessed based on the following:

### **CONTENT AND SKILLS**

Meets Standards: The student mastered most of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester. (MS) 80 – 100%

Progressing: The student mastered some of the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows evidence of developing understanding or skills. (P) 60-79%

Area of Concern: The student was unable to master the knowledge and skill areas assessed during the semester and/or shows little evidence of developing understanding or skills. (AC) 0-59%

### **BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION**

Excellent: The student consistently demonstrates willing and active participation and consistently applies the *Behaviors That Promote Learning (BTPL)\** in the classroom. (E) 80-100%

Satisfactory: The student usually demonstrates willing and active participation and is usually consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (S) 60-79%

Improving: The student is demonstrating willing and active participation on a more regular basis and is more consistent in the application of the BTPL in the classroom. (I)

Needs Improvement: The student demonstrates a lack of active participation on a regular basis and is inconsistent or acts counter to the application of BTPL in the classroom. (N) 0-59%

*\* for details on the Behaviors That Promote Learning (BPTL), please visit the class website.*

## Content and Skills Grading

### Playing Tests and Part Checks – 70%

- Students will be tested often on selections from their music. Students will record themselves on any audio device (smart phone, tablet, computer) and upload their playing to Schoology for a grade. If there are no resources for a student to record themselves and upload to Schoology at home, they will be able to use school technology by appointment with Mr. Abrahamson.
- Students who do not demonstrate proficiency through their playing tests will be offered targeted suggestions for improvement, and given more chances to re-submit their performance after further practice. Feedback will always be positive and encouraging for the students!

### Quizzes and Formative Assessments – 30%

- Students will be asked to complete short quizzes and formative assessments throughout the year as a means of monitoring progress in areas of music literacy, technique, musical vocabulary, and other standards-based areas.

## Behavior and Participation Grading

### Participation – 40%

- Bring instrument to every band class. After three class periods of not having instrument, the student will be issued a band participation/behavior reflection form to complete and their grade will go down one letter grade for the quarter. Please use the band calendar in your binder to keep track of when you need your instrument.
- Bring classroom materials every day, including **book** and **pencils**
- Come to class with a positive attitude, ready to learn and give your best effort.
- Attendance: Be in assigned seat with instrument, book, and pencil out, ready to play by the time the setup timer has expired.
- Be personally responsible for your setup (chair, stand, instrument) and cleanup each class.

### Concerts/Performances – 40%

- Concerts make up such a high percentage of the student's grade due to the fact that band is a group activity. An absence from a performance impacts the whole group. In addition, students work extremely hard bringing musical pieces up to a performance standard. For this reason, they deserve a chance to display their efforts and talents.
- If it is not possible for the student to perform in the concert, contact from a parent/guardian in advance is required in order for the student to be given a make-up

excuse. In order for a student to be considered excused, it needs to be regarding family emergencies, illness, acts of God, etc... Failure to plan is not an excusable reason.

Students are given calendar dates the first week of school in order to plan accordingly.

- In cases such as emergencies or sudden illness where prior notification is impossible, a parent or guardian must contact Mr. Abrahamson as soon as possible. The student will be given one week after the concert to turn in the assignment.

#### Behavior – 20%

- Students are expected to treat all members of our groups with respect, kindness, and fairness.
- All school rules will be enforced per the student handbook and CUSD guidelines.
- Bullying – CUSD has a zero tolerance policy for bullying.
- Excessive talking during class, or playing an instrument out of turn to intentionally disrupt a lessons is taken seriously. Students who are choosing to cause disruptions in rehearsal will be warned and redirected in class. Students who do not correct their behavior will be issued a band behavior and reflection form and lose points from their behavior grade.
- Students can earn back points for their behavior grade by demonstrating excellent behavior in the future.

### Schoology

Schoology is an online classroom that we will be using for uploading playing tests, classroom events, sheet music PDF's, concert info, and anything else band related. Each student will have unique login for themselves and parents to login to on a regular basis. We will have an interactive tutorial in class for all students to learn how to use Schoology. Parents and students who attend one of the band parent meetings listed at the end of this handbook will be able to set up their accounts and see a walkthrough of the Schoology system. Students who do not have access to technology at home will be able to use school provided technology to complete their assignments by appointment with Mr. Abrahamson.

### Band Belts and Awards

Each quarter, band students will have the opportunity to earn a “belt” by demonstrating their progress and proficiency on their instrument.

- Similar to the traditional karate belt system, the band belt system is designed to encourage and motivate students to grow and learn and to develop a sense of pride from those who have met the challenges of learning and instrument.
- Though each belt is designed to be earned at the end of each quarter, students may select to work at their own pace through Schoology and earn belts ahead of their peers.
- Likewise, students who are struggling, will be able to retest as many times as they would like in order to earn their belt.

- In addition to the belts, students will also be able to earn special Musicianship, Leadership and Perseverance pins by accomplishing various activities and tasks such as volunteering, attending concerts, performing solos, collaborating with peers, etc...
- Students who earn their belts on time each quarter will be treated to a party with Mr. Abrahamson. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who end their year with the Blue Belt, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who end their year with the Black Belt will earn a special reward party!

## For Parents:

As a traveling teacher the best form of communication with me is via email. My email address is [abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com](mailto:abrahamson.luke@cusd80.com)

- I will only send emails to you that pertain to important band information
- When we are getting close to concerts I will send concert reminders out via email. When I send emails, they will be sent through Infinite campus.

Obtaining an instrument:

- I would highly encourage you to rent your instruments through any local music store. It might seem enticing to buy a cheap instrument from an online retailer, but often times these instruments are of poor quality that break often. If they do not break or have problems, the students often struggle to play them because of their poor build quality.
- The best way to find a shop to rent from is by talking to friends and neighbors, or by using your favorite search engine via the internet and search for local instrument rentals.
- CUSD Instruments: We never want money to be the reason a student cannot play an instrument. If money is a hardship, we have an instrument rental program. There is a small fee at the beginning of the year, if you qualify and are selected your student can use a district instrument for the whole year.
  - If you are interested in a low cost CUSD instrument, CUSD rental information is due to Mr. Abrahamson before the end of class on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. No exceptions.

Make an investment!

- Please be involved in your child's learning. Just like any of the STEM courses your student's take in the classroom, concepts are taught and must be reinforced via worksheets in the classroom and homework at home. The same applies for learning an instrument. These concepts are hard to learn. Your student will need encouragement, and it will take hard work. I expect students to practice between 60 and 90 minutes per week. No practice record is required, however students must practice enough to be able to perform their playing tests proficiently.

- Make practice fun! Be involved with their practice; make it fun by having your student perform mini impromptu concerts for you, where they can play a song they learned in class that day.
- Help them with Schoology! Your student may need help uploading their song to Schoology. If they are not happy with how a specific recording sounds, they can record as many times as they'd like!

## Calendar of Events

### CTA Humphrey

Band Parent Meeting.....Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM in the computer lab.  
Winter Concert.....Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30PM.  
Spring Concert..... Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

### Haley Elementary

Band Parent Meeting.....Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM in the MPR.  
Winter Concert.....Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM.  
Spring Concert.....Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

### Patterson Elementary

Band Parent Meeting.....Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the MPR.  
Winter Concert.....Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM.  
Spring Concert..... Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

### Carlson Elementary

Band Parent Meeting.....Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM in the MPR.  
Winter Concert.....Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 PM.  
Spring Concert..... Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

All students are expected to arrive 30 minutes prior to concert start. Be sure to be prompt, as all students (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) need to be tuned prior to the concert starting.

### **TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR BAND**

1. Visit <https://www.cusd80.com/Domain/3040> and click on the "online registration" link. (WORKS FOR ALL SCHOOLS EVEN THOUGH IT IS ON THE PATTERSON SITE)
2. Complete the Band Contract on the following page and return To Mr. Abrahamson before the end of the day on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.



## Band Contract

I, the student, understand and accept the responsibilities outlined in the Band Handbook.

---

Student Name (please print)

---

Student Signature

We, the parents/guardians, acknowledge having read this handbook and promise to assist our child and support them to the best of our ability. We will help them to abide by all rules and expectations contained herein.

---

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

---

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

---

Parent/Guardian Signature

**PLEASE RETURN TO MR. ABRAHAMSON BY FRIDAY, JULY 28TH**